

## **COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY**

**February 10, 2004**

**5:30 PM**

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Sysyn, Guinta, Smith, Forest (late), O'Neil

Messrs.: Lt. Valenti, T. Lolicata, T. Arnold, J. Hoben

Chairman Sysyn advised that the first purpose of the meeting is organizational in nature, and requested the Clerk to provide a brief overview regarding typical issues addressed by the Committee.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated basically this Committee is an offshoot of some statutory requirements dealing with regulations of vehicles upon the City streets. It has also been by ordinance given the task of parking operations oversight and frequently listens to the gentlemen who are the table now, which would be Lt. Valenti and Mr. Tom Lolicata from the Traffic Department. Beyond that I think we will just let the flow go.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Discussion – Directional Signs for Gill Stadium submitted by the Traffic Department.

Chairman Sysyn stated Tom Lolicata got together with the baseball people to set-up a plan.

Mr. Tom Lolicata stated this was brought to my attention by Mr. Mike Viagini. He is with the NH Fisher Cats. He brought up the idea of having wayward signs bringing people into Manchester and showing them how to get to Gill Stadium. Now there is going to be nothing for football, baseball or Fisher Cats but just for the stadium name itself, Gill Stadium. I told the gentleman that I would be glad to help make these signs if you want to go along with this. They will be brown and white and I will have locations forwarded to you later on, say maybe within a week or so and I don't expect to go over more than 20 or 25 signs throughout the whole City. I think it is a good idea. I think that because it is just like the Verizon we have to do something to bring people into a new domain, which is going to be

a beautiful stadium by next year. It is our own Gill Stadium and I think it should go forward.

Alderman O'Neil moved to approve the direction signs for Gill Stadium as submitted by the Traffic Department. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Leo Bernier, City Clerk, seeking permission to allow the City Hall Information Booth volunteers the use of a parking permit placard to be placed on their dashboard(s) while on duty at City Hall because of the recent sale of the Canal Street garage.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to grant permission of parking permit placards for the City Hall Information Booth volunteers.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Dr. F. William Danby requesting the installation of some sort of traffic control light at the intersection of Salmon and Chestnut Streets due to numerous accidents at this location.

Mr. Lolicata stated I will address this and so will Lt. Valenti. We have been up there a few times on our own. On that particular corner people are actually going through the stop sign. They are not even coming to a complete halt in most cases but what I plan to do is to go back further for distance for seeing. I will take another 50 to 75 feet of Chestnut Street to help it. We have parking on both sides of that street so now they are channeled for one car to go in the middle. It is not for two cars now, it is for one. It doesn't warrant signals there right now. Right now it is a little bit of common sense and people slowing down and coming to a complete stop. I would like to try to recommend that first.

Alderman Smith stated I have been up there and I don't think there is any need...there are two stop signs to the left and right right at Chestnut Street. It is a one-way street going north on Salmon and it is one-way going south on Chestnut. All they have to do is look to the left if they stop. The intersection is wide open and I don't think there is any need...there might be accidents but it is just like school zones and everything. Everybody likes to violate certain things. I don't think there is any need for traffic signals there if they just pay attention to what is out there.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have a question for Lt. Valenti. Are there a high number of accidents there and are people cited for their...

Lt. Valenti interjected there is not a high number of accidents but the accidents that are involved there do involve the failure to stop at the stop sign.

Alderman O'Neil asked so it isn't affected by poor site lines or illegal parking or anything it is generally just that people fail to obey the law and stop at the stop signs.

Lt. Valenti answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked if that is the case then Tom do you really need to clear anymore. I mean people must need the parking spaces up there. Do you need to...

Mr. Lolicata interjected the only other factor against us up there is speed. They come down Chestnut Street pretty good.

Alderman O'Neil stated but both of these issues sound like they are enforcement issues, not necessarily signage or parking issues.

Mr. Lolicata responded true. I was just trying to make it a little safer and get 50' or 75' more feet. We can go without.

Alderman Forest moved to receive and file. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from David Jespersen suggesting that 4-way stop signs be installed or the word Stop be painted in the roadway at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Old Wellington Road.

Mr. Lolicata stated this is a little bit difference. I have had complaints regarding Eastern Avenue and Wellington Road but Old Wellington Road has two stop signs right now and for the life of me I am trying to figure out what a four-way stop sign is going to do up there. Right now I am trying to understand it. I don't think there are many accidents there and it is right before Wellington Road. I think they are in the right positions right now, the two stop signs that we have had there for awhile. I will look at it again and I will ask Lt. Valenti to go back two or three years and see what he has for accidents up there.

Lt. Valenti stated once again I think that at that particular intersection there haven't been a lot of accidents. It is probably an enforcement issue. There is a grade coming down the hill there that would cause vehicles certainly to speed up and there might be a belief that there are people speeding up in that area. We certainly will be up there doing a little bit of enforcement and we will go up there with Tom to look at the intersection again.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Handicapped parking changes to be submitted by the City Solicitor's Office.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated you have before you a copy of a draft ordinance regarding handicapped parking. It is resulting from some changes to the state law and the Deputy City Solicitor is here to address it.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold stated as you may or may not be aware there was a statute passed in the last session that essentially made a couple of changes to the law. The first substantive change is that it imposed a minimum fine of \$250 on parking in a handicapped space. The second substantive change that it made is it designated a handicapped access aisle. What that is is we actually have one right out in front of City Hall. It is usually a cross-hatched portion right next to a handicapped parking space that allows someone with a mobility van with a ramp or a lift to use it. It is provided that you can't park in those access aisles and further provided that if you do there is a fine of \$50 on the first offense and \$100 on the second offense. What I did was I took those various changes and essentially integrated it into our traffic code so that our traffic code would reflect the change in state law.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we need to send this to Bills on Second Reading.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered the process would be to refer it to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen with a recommendation that it be referred to B2R.

Alderman O'Neil moved to recommend that the ordinance be approved and further that it be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman advised that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

**STOP SIGNS**

**ON BELMONT ST. AT SAGAMORE ST., NWC, SEC (4-WAY SCHOOL ZONE)**

**ALDERMAN GATSAS**

**ON LISA LANE AT S. BEECH ST., NEC (EMERGENCY ACT)**

**ALDERMAN GARRITY**

**CROSSWALKS:**

**ON MCLAUGHLIN SCHOOL DRIVEWAY AT FACULTY PARKING LOT AT SOUTH END OF SCHOOL**

**ALDERMAN DEVRIES**

**ON MONTGOMERY ST. NORTH OF AMORY ST.**

**ON AMORY ST. TO ISLAND NORTH OF BARTLETT**

**ON BARTLETT ST. WEST OF AUCLAIR AVE.**

**ON AUCLAIR AVE. SOUTH OF BARTLETT**

**ALDERMAN THIBAUT**

**NO PARKING:**

**ON ORCHARD AVE. WEST SIDE, FROM A POINT 110 FEET NORTH OF CANDIA RD. TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH**

**ALDERMAN SHEA**

**ON SOUTH BEECH ST. EAST SIDE, FROM MYSTIC ST. TO A POINT 90 FEET NORTH (EMERGENCY ACT)**

**ON MITCHELL ST. NORTH SIDE, FROM S. ELM ST. TO A POINT 70 FEET EASTERLY (EMERGENCY ACT)**

**ALDERMAN GARRITY**

**ON BELMONT ST. WEST SIDE, FROM GROVE ST. TO A POINT 90 FEET NORTHERLY**

**ALDERMAN OSBORNE**

**ON CIRCLE ROAD, WEST SIDE, FROM WESTON RD. TO MANOR DRIVE**

**ON CIRCLE ROAD, EAST SIDE, FROM WESTON RD. TO A POINT 100 FEET EASTERLY**

**ALDERMAN DEVRIES**

**ON CUMBERLAND ST. WEST SIDE, FROM A POINT 180 FEET SOUTH  
OF MONITOR ST. TO A POINT 65 FEET SOUTHERLY  
ALDERMAN THIBAUT**

**NO PARKING (10PM-7AM SEVEN DAYS):**

**ON SMYTH LANE NORTH SIDE, FROM MAMMOTH RD. TO ESTATE  
DRIVE  
ALDERMAN GATSAS**

**ON SMYTH LANE SOUTH SIDE, FROM MAMMOTH RD. TO A POINT  
75 FEET WESTERLY  
ALDERMAN GATSAS**

**ON SMYTH LANE, SOUTH SIDE, FROM A POINT 140 FEET WEST OF  
MAMMOTH RD. TO A POINT 170 FEET WEST  
ALDERMAN GATSAS**

**RESCIND NO PARKING:**

**ON ORCHARD AVE. WEST SIDE, FROM CANDIA RD. TO A POINT 60  
FEET NORTH  
ALDERMAN SHEA #3474**

**ON ORCHARD AVE. WEST SIDE, FROM A POINT 60 FEET NORTH OF  
CANDIA RD. TO A POINT 90 FEET NORTH #3473  
ALDERMAN SHEA**

**ONE WAY STREETS:**

**TEXTILE COURT, FROM THE DEAD END OF THE STREET TO A  
POINT 70 FEET EASTERLY (EASTBOUND)  
ALDERMAN GUINTA**

**ASH ST. FROM BRIDGE ST. TO LOWELL ST. SOUTHBOUND  
ALDERMAN SYSYN**

**PARKING 2 HOURS (8AM-6PM MON-FRI):**

**ON BEECH ST. EAST SIDE, FROM AMHERST ST. TO HANOVER ST.  
ALDERMAN SYSYN**

**RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE 2623:**

**ON BEECH ST. EAST SIDE, FROM A POINT 75 FEET SOUTH OF  
AMHERST ST. TO A POINT 45 FEET SOUTH  
ALDERMAN SYSYN**

**RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS #6957:**  
**ON BEECH ST., EAST SIDE, FROM A POINT 120 FEET SOUTH OF**  
**AMHERST ST. TO HANOVER ST.**  
**ALDERMAN SYSYN**

**RESCIND PARKING 2 HOURS #6956:**  
**ON BEECH ST. EAST SIDE, FROM AMHERST ST. TO A POINT 75 FEET**  
**SOUTH**  
**ALDERMAN SYSYN**

Chairman stated we need to take the first stop sign off for Alderman Gatsas. He isn't here and he said that he didn't request that stop sign on Belmont Street and Sagamore and he wondered if it was a recommendation by you or where it came from. He is not opposed to it, but he doesn't know where it came from.

Mr. Lolicata responded it came from one of his constituents and the only reason it was on there...I am sorry but it has been two and a half months since we met and I thought I got in touch with him but I guess I didn't. The constituent up there might have something going for him but the only reason I looked at it real close was because of the topography and where it is located. I would go along with this because it is a school zone definitely. Outside of that I wouldn't do it.

Chairman Sysyn stated so we can move that along then if it is because it is near the school zone and because of the topography.

Mr. Lolicata responded that is the only reason I put it on there.

Alderman Gatsas arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Lolicata stated it is in a school zone and it is my fault that I didn't tell you about it. One of your constituents gave me a call and it has been so long since we had a traffic meeting that I apologize if I didn't tell you about it. I was under the impression that you knew. I am sorry.

Alderman Gatsas stated I understand that it is by a school zone but I guess my question would be how is that going to help.

Mr. Lolicata responded it is not going to enhance but to help stop. We did a pretty decent job on Belmont Street already. If you remember the stop signs we put in on Belmont Street helped a lot. I believe it was a woman who called me and this woman asked me twice as a matter of fact and I am sorry if she didn't get a hold of

you but that is why I gave it a good look. It is right near the pedestrian crossing and it is right next to Smyth Road. I don't have the accident ratio for you.

Alderman Gatsas stated there is no pedestrian crossing.

Mr. Lolicata responded it is right near the pedestrian crossing on Bruce and Smyth Road. It is the next one down I believe. It is a school crossing right there.

Alderman Gatsas stated the kids walk up Smyth Road and down Bruce Road to get to school. They don't continue their walk along Belmont and up Sagamore.

Mr. Lolicata responded I really don't know. I got her side of the story saying that they do walk. I will have to go look at it myself. Do you want to put this on table and I will take a look at it?

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to table the four way stop sign on Belmont Street at Sagamore Street.

Chairman Sysyn asked are you making Ash Street from Bridge Street to Lowell one-way in my ward.

Mr. Lolicata answered that is correct.

Chairman Sysyn asked because it is narrow with the sidewalks there.

Mr. Lolicata answered we would like to try it on a pilot program while Central High School is undergoing construction. Nobody can get by there, Madame Chair. We thought this would be the best thing right now. It is something to even look into afterwards.

Alderman O'Neil stated I hope and I am not a ward Alderman so I don't generally get involved but I hope that departments are talking to respective Aldermen about these issues before they are moving forward. It sounds like Aldermen Sysyn and Gatsas were surprised. Departments shouldn't be doing things without talking to the ward Aldermen.

Mr. Lolicata responded I am usually 100% on that. Like I said it has been a few months since we had a meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated please we have to communicate with the Aldermen in the wards about what is going on in their wards before items are brought forward.



Mr. Lolicata responded that was a little mix up between us, the Police and Mary. I am sorry, Mary.

Chairman Sysyn stated I think it was talked about previously.

Alderman Forest stated in defending Tom maybe it was our fault because the last couple of years we have allowed Tom to talk to constituents and put it on the agenda and then we would discuss it the night of the meeting. Maybe he should notify us ahead of time.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to accept the traffic agenda.

Chairman Sysyn addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Discussion – Implementation of the downtown area Traffic Signal Optimization and Synchronization Study submitted by the Traffic Department.

Mr. Lolicata stated at this time I am going to turn it over to Jim Hoben. He is going to explain to you what has occurred and who did this.

Mr. Jim Hoben stated this is the second part of the downtown study that Southern NH Planning did for us. The first one was about five years ago when we implemented it. We are running an am peak hour now and he is inserting a PM peak from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM. You won't see much but you will see a little improvement at peak hours. The other thing I would like to inform the Committee about is that Southern NH is going to be studying the South Willow Street arterial for us. I will be meeting with them on Friday. Again, they are doing this at no charge. I would like to recognize Moni Sharma and Shyam Gunda for the fine work they have done over the years. They also did Granite Street for us. They did Canal Street and all of the downtown area.

Alderman Forest asked would this include some of what I was complaining about the other day in your office about the way the traffic moves along Elm Street. Is that part of this study or is it something else?

Mr. Hoben answered Elm Street wasn't included. They have done that one before you. After Elm Street was completed they did one for us. There is a timing program running there now.

Chairman Sysyn asked do we have to move on anything.

Mr. Hoben stated we are just looking for approval to implement it.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to approve the implementation of the Traffic Signal Optimization and Synchronization Study submitted by the Traffic Department.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

15. Communications from Aldermen Forest and Guinta requesting that the parking meter time requirement for downtown be reduced from 8:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman Sysyn asked did you talk to the downtown merchants at all Alderman Guinta.

Alderman Guinta answered yes I did. At the last meeting we had talked about the downtown merchants and the Chamber of Commerce and Intown Manchester and the Chamber of Commerce but it through their committee and did their due diligence and made a recommendation. I don't know how many people on the Board received the recommendation but I know that Alderman Forest has it with him. At this time I think we are looking for...

Chairman Sysyn interjected did anyone else get it. I had a letter from Robin Comstock and so did Alderman Roy. How does the Board feel about this? I have and it has nothing to with the income from those parking meters but when we did that parking until 8 PM we did it so the restaurants could have their customers parking in front of their restaurant and not have a problem rather than people going to the civic center and parking at 6 PM or whatever so they could go to the civic center. That is why we did it in the first place. I thought the merchants were okay with it but obviously they are not.

Alderman Guinta stated I think a substantial amount of time has passed and we have a pretty good picture of how parking has evolved downtown, not only in relation to the civic center but other activities like business and retail and residential. I think after looking at it at this point I would submit that the reasonable request...I haven't really seen any great opposition from the downtown business owners.

Chairman Sysyn stated I do see some of the employees parking downtown in spots that could be free for customers.

Alderman Guinta responded that is going to happen no matter what.

Alderman O'Neil stated I didn't see an effective date that you were looking for for implementation in the letter. Maybe I missed it?

Alderman Forest responded well what I would like to do is get the support of the Traffic Committee at this time and send it on to the full Board and pass it that night.

Alderman O'Neil asked do you want it effective that night.

Alderman Forest replied I am not sure how long...I know that Tom has to make some arrangements to change some of the signs and I don't know how much time he would need but this has been on the table since November.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't necessarily have an issue with changing the time. The only thing I would suggest is let's have a little bit of a game plan. Every time we jump into something it comes back to bite us. I would rather see us have a game plan and what is a reasonable time to change signs and how does it fit within this fiscal year and is it something we can budget for in the next fiscal year. Again, I don't necessarily have an issue with what they want to do I would just like to see a little bit of a game plan on implementing it.

Mr. Lolicata stated we have gone over this what three different times changing these hours. I am going to be like you. I don't want this to look like it is a money deal. The meters are there to help people park. That is the impression that everybody should have right now. Secondly, you are losing over \$100,000 again. That has to be made up somewhere. Those are revenues that you have already passed. The only other thing I have to say is other towns...Boston is going up to 8 PM. They are doing the opposite and we have been going the opposite since we first started. We went from 10 PM to 8 PM and now to 6 PM. You might as well say there is free parking just to go to the Verizon never mind downtown.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to...we didn't get a survey from downtown and I would like to get individuals. I know I have talked to a couple of restaurant owners and they are not too pleased with the situation. One happened to be on Central Street. I would like to have letters written by the individual businesses saying they want this to be done. I don't want to take hearsay saying yes we had a survey. I haven't got anything on paper. I have just heard testimony here tonight and I would like to see this lay on the table and talk about it another time.

Alderman Forest responded in reference to letters, Alderman Guinta and I last year had a meeting with about 150 downtown merchants regarding Saturday parking. I have a letter here that was sent to all of the Aldermen on January 13 from the Chamber of Commerce and the survey that Robin Comstock and her group did. Somewhere in there and I am not sure what it is dated and I don't have it here but there was a survey down by Stephanie Lewry of Intown surveying the businessmen downtown and that was also sent to the Aldermen. Alderman Guinta and I have been listening to complaints about the parking downtown for over a year. The original statement was, which Alderman Sysyn just said that the downtown merchants were all notified and all agreed to changing these hours. Well if you talk to all of the businessmen downtown that is not really true. They were not informed properly. This was shoved down their throats when the Verizon was being built. They didn't have much choice about it and they have been complaining about it ever since. I don't think that changing this to 6 PM is going to hurt us as much as we think it is and that is why I proposed it, mainly because of the business people downtown.

Chairman Sysyn stated the original parking downtown was until 10 PM and then we changed it to 8 PM.

Alderman Roy stated I have gotten an overwhelming response from constituents in my ward who own businesses downtown and it has been a revelation for me to see how much of an impact a \$10 ticket can do to their business and how they are perceived in the public. I got the letter from the Chamber and started asking questions of business owners that I know and they would like to see this rolled back to 6 PM. I also from an Aldermanic standpoint would like, when this comes in front of the full Board, to see what that fiscal impact would be and how those revenues could be made up either Citywide or in the department.

Chairman Sysyn responded Tom has the figures.

Mr. Lolicata stated going by the last time we were affected by this, not including my cost to change the meters but I believe we came up with a \$125,000 figure for that Saturday parking. I am going to say at least with over 1,000 or 1,200 meters involved you are going to be over the \$100,000 mark or close to it. Not as bad as Saturday, don't get me wrong but you are going to be \$80,000 to \$100,000 anyway.

Alderman O'Neil stated again I just want to say that I am not necessarily opposed to this but I would like to see a little bit of a plan. The reason we got into trouble to begin with is we didn't have a plan. We overreacted and I would support...I don't remember seeing that letter from the Chamber. I haven't seen the survey

that Intown has done. I would just like to get a little more information and get some kind of plan. I am hearing a number on the revenue point but it is being grabbed out of the air. We must be able to get a better number than just well Saturday was \$125,00 so I am guessing it is going to be \$100,000. We have to be able to determine things a little better than that. I support putting it back on the table to get that information.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with Aldermen Smith and O'Neil. I don't think we have enough information. It is not just the \$100,000 or \$125,000. I think the Police Department is going to lose revenue from the control aspect. I think the full picture ought to be given here. I was also at that meeting at the Palace Theatre of 150 people too and when we went from 10 PM it was their compromise to go to 8 PM to protect their businesses downtown. I think there is a lot...the question is where are we going to get the money? The taxpayers of Manchester are going to have to pay for this because of the lack of control downtown and I don't think that is fair. I think Alderman Smith has it right. We don't have enough information.

Chairman Sysyn stated I just want to make a comment too. When we changed the Saturday parking and took away paying the meters, I had complaints from some of the businesses downtown because people were parking all day in front of their businesses and other people couldn't park to come in. I did have that complaint.

Alderman Guinta stated I have a couple of things. I think there are some good points that need to be addressed. I don't see a need to table this today in order to provide some of the information that people would need for the next Aldermanic meeting. I would be happy to work with Mr. Lolicata on a schedule of how long he would require to implement this. I would also be happy to work with him on the fiscal impact. The information that has been established or provided by the Chamber we can have the Chamber and Intown Manchester attend the public session at the next meeting and they are welcome to testify when we take up this issue at the next Aldermanic meeting. I don't necessarily need to see this implemented immediately. I am happy given some of the concerns of this fiscal year's budget to possibly look at implementing this for July 1. I am not saying that is what I want to do but I want to see this moving in the right direction for the purpose of looking at our City with a wider vision than just simply a concern here or a complaint there. We have to address the wider vision of people coming downtown and there is no question that parking tickets between 6 PM and 8 PM has had a real negative impact on our City, not only from residents but from people who visit our City. I would be happy to move this forward tonight and give my effort to Tom and work with him to make sure that all of this information that people are looking for and really all it is is a schedule and some updated information and having the Chamber and Intown present and that is easily accomplished.

Alderman O'Neil responded I would support moving it to the next level but I would really hope that we could get that information. The fiscal impact, a reasonable timeline of when it could be enacted...the letter from the Chamber is just a general letter. It doesn't say we surveyed 1,000 businesses and 700...if specific information from Intown and the Chamber is available I would like to see that information. I will support moving it along. Hopefully we can get all of the information necessary.

Alderman Guinta moved to change the time in all metered parking spaces from 8 AM to 6 PM. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Smith being duly recorded in opposition.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there was a request submitted by Alderman O'Neil with regards to approving no parking on Elm Street for the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on March 21, 2004.

On motion of Alderman Guinta, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to approve the request for no parking on Elm Street (both sides) from Bridge to Valley Streets on Sunday, March 21, 2004; and painting of shamrocks at the intersections of Elm and Pleasant Streets and Elm and Hanover Streets.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we also have a communication submitted by Alderman Forest that has been distributed to the Committee.

Alderman Forest stated I had a memo distributed to the Traffic Committee today. Although I have been working on this for several months, I have talked to the Chief of Police and the City Clerk and other departments and it is not a major problem but there seems to be a problem in the City as far as parking tickets. I was having a problem several months ago trying to find out how many tickets were given out on a certain street at a certain time and where the problem streets were and it was very difficult for the Police Department to give me the answers. I know that several years ago I thought about this and I think maybe this would be appropriate if I could get the Traffic Committee to approve the City Clerk moving forward on this and everything else. I went to Concord, NH about two months ago and I also went to Portsmouth, NH. I phoned people in Portland, ME and they have what they call a Parking Control Manager and under that Manager that person takes care of meters, collection of meters, parking control officers, maintenance, repairs and everything else. It all comes under one department.

They also have...their lock box system...we seem to be the only town in New Hampshire that does do it but all of the parking tickets have a lock box number on them that goes to the post office. With all other towns it goes directly to a bank and the bank counts the money and gives the city a report. At the end of the day the city has the money in the bank and is collecting it. In Manchester we have a problem...not a major problem but again a problem with getting parking tickets from one place to another and not getting interest on the money. What I am asking the Traffic Committee to do is help me or help the Clerk see if we can come up with a more efficient way to administer parking tickets and parking control. What I have here are some bullets. I am talking about a Parking Facilities Operation where the parking manager would take care of parking tickets and the maintenance and all of that and I am just trying to look into it and sort of combine the issuance and collection of the money a little more efficiently to maybe save us money. So I am looking for a direction to go.

Chairman Sysyn asked when somebody gets a traffic ticket where does that money go. Does it go to the Police Department?

Alderman Forest answered I believe it goes to Ordinance Violations.

Chairman Sysyn replied right and then it goes to the Police doesn't it.

Alderman Forest responded yes but again it goes to Finance after that. I know that Lt. Valenti can tell me the amount of money or tickets that they gave out today but we can't really concentrate on which street or what meters and everything else. There are too many different facilities involved in parking control and I am just trying to control it.

Chairman Sysyn asked so it would be the City Clerk's Office that would do this.

Alderman Forest answered well whoever. I am asking and I think the City Clerk probably has more experience at merging all of this and how it can be done and see how much it would cost.

Chairman Sysyn asked do I have a motion to move this to the City Clerk's Office.

Alderman Guinta stated I would move it but there is no recommendation. Are we moving it for study?

Alderman Forest responded correct. I am looking for them to come up with a way of doing this where it could save us money and simplify everything. Again, that would be parking garages also and issuing parking permits. It would all come under one department instead of the several that are involved now.

Alderman O'Neil stated I just want to make sure that I am clear on this. Are you asking...are you suggesting that the Clerk's Office would be the appropriate place or are they just assisting you with this task?

Alderman Forest answered right now the Clerk does not have the authority to do what I am asking. It has to be recommended by this Board. Citizens Bank offers this lock box thing. I can't just go over there because I wanted them to make a presentation. I can't just do that. It has to be from the direction of this Committee or the Board to look into a lot of these things so we can get answers.

Alderman O'Neil asked so you are just looking for permission to move forward and study the issue as Alderman Guinta said.

Alderman Forest answered correct.

Alderman Guinta moved to have the City Clerk's Office study the issue and come back to the Committee with recommendations. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn stated the Clerk has informed me that a couple of items should come off the table.

11. Report, if available, from the Building Commissioner and City Solicitor regarding speeding up the demolition process.  
(Note: tabled on 08/12/2003 pending collection of comments from departments and final version of the ordinance.)

This item remained on the table.

12. Ordinance:  
"Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by creating §75.00 Motorized Scooters established to govern the use of motorized scooters in the City of Manchester."

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we would just note that this is the ordinance relating to scooters and you had asked the Police Department to come back with some revisions and I have a hand out from them.



Lt. Valenti stated I think it was the summer of 2001 to bring a little history of this that we started to see a proliferation of these so-called motorized scooters or go-peds as they are referred to. We did receive complaints from some of the ward Aldermen as well as the citizens of Manchester regarding these motorized scooters. At the time we did talk to the folks up at the State to see if there was a regulation regarding motorized scooters or go-peds and we found that there were none. We were told that the best way to proceed was with an ordinance of our own and that is why we brought this forward. In no way, shape or form does this have anything to do with the Segway. The definition doesn't fit the Segway. I just want to bring that up. Actually the definition is a tandem vehicle, which means it is one wheel behind the other. Anyway we did have a lot of problems regarding these motorized scooters. Young kids were zipping around the streets of Manchester unregulated and now we bring forward this ordinance, which provides some regulations.

Alderman O'Neil moved to recommend that the ordinance be approved and further that it be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

13. Portion of report of Traffic Committee referred back to Committee  
03/18/2003 regarding the adoption of regulations:

One-Way Streets

Hollis Street

Kidder Street

(Note: This item was tabled on 04/08/2003 pending a meeting between Alderman Guinta, Tom Lolicata, and the constituents involved.

This item remained on the table.

14. Report regarding parking garage contract RFP's.

This item remained on the table.

16. Communication from Jean "John" Lemire requesting the installation of 15 signs with the Lions International logo throughout the City.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated it is my understanding that representatives from the Lions Club are here to speak to this item.

Mr. Lolicata stated the gentleman is here today. He came to see me a couple of weeks ago. I believe we had the Lions Club signs in the City before. I am trying to remember where. This goes way back. I guess you might say if you do approve this it would be like a grandfather clause. They had been up for years but I guess most of them are probably gone from usage and from years of service. I would probably...I don't know if I have the old locations but if this gentleman wants to put them up I can work with him on that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated my understanding at the last meeting was that Alderman Garrity had actually requested that the Lions Club come forward to let us know where they were talking about putting them and he wanted to know about the cost associated with that.

Mr. Philip Adams stated I am the third Vice President for the Manchester Lions. Like our request stated we would like to install at least 15 signs around the City of Manchester. Our main reason for doing this is that we have been serving the community for the past 80 years and very few people know about our existence. We would like to place them in areas like coming off the interstate and off Route 101, etc.

Chairman Sysyn stated that would be something that you could work on with the Traffic Department.

Alderman O'Neil stated if I heard you correctly earlier the cost would be absorbed by the Lions Club and I know Mr. Lolicata said he would like to work with them on putting them up. The other question would be they were going to supply locations. Is that information available?

Chairman Sysyn asked do you have your locations.

Mr. Adams answered yes. We sent a letter to Mr. Lolicata some time ago stating exact locations. The locations are off Interstate I-93, Exits 6-9 and off Interstate 293, Exits 1-7 and off Route 101 East Exit 1 and off of Brown Avenue next to the Airport.

Alderman Forest stated I understand where he wants to put them but wouldn't that be the State DOT on those or do you have authority to allow them.

Mr. Lolicata answered I would have to put them on the City's part. We are not allowed to put anything on the ramps anymore. In other words it would be the nearest ramp to the City itself unless you get state permission and they are not giving it to anybody right now.

Mr. Lolicata stated we might have an old listing of where the signs used to be located so we could work something out with this gentleman.

Chairman Sysyn stated the City Clerk's Office has advised me that we had stopped putting up signs for different organizations quite awhile back and I don't know what the Committee wants to do.

Alderman Forest asked didn't you just mention Tom that they had them up before.

Mr. Lolicata answered right. That is why I am saying we might still have the old locations.

Alderman Forest asked would that violate the ordinance.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered it wasn't an ordinance. I was just cautioning that there was a policy established by the Committee because you were getting hit so much with signage and I think what Tom is saying is that if you do it you should do it as an action of grandfathering so that you are not opening the doors to other organizations.

Alderman O'Neil asked have all of information signs that have been put up been at the cost of others or have we paid for them.

Chairman Sysyn answered the organization pays for them.

Mr. Lolicata stated in 90% of the cases, they pay for the signs. They are told how big they can be, we put them in for them and I charge them labor.

Alderman Forest stated again they have had them up before so couldn't we just grandfather them and we wouldn't be opening up a can of worms and we wouldn't be violating our own policy, which says we won't allow them anymore.

Mr. Lolicata responded I believe that is the way to go.

Alderman Garrity asked the Lions Club is a non-profit organization I assume right.

Mr. Adams answered we are and we function under Lions International.

Alderman Garrity stated I have an issue about making them pay for the signs. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce didn't pay for their new signs did they? In the last discussion we had three or four months ago in this Committee the City had covered the cost for that correct?

Mr. Lolicata answered that is correct.

Alderman Garrity stated I am pretty uncomfortable that we covered the cost for the Chamber but we are going to make a non-profit group pay for their signs. We should set-up a policy.

Mr. Lolicata stated through the years depending on who it is, some people have offered to pay and 90% do. Non-profits, we took care of the American Red Cross to give you an example. There has been a give and take but most people pay for their own signs.

Alderman Garrity stated I thought the agreement was when we were going to do that for the Chamber they were going to pay for it. I was on the Traffic Committee back then and that was the agreement and they still haven't paid us for it.

Chairman Sysyn responded that is correct. They were supposed to pay.

Mr. Lolicata stated I paid for those.

Chairman Sysyn stated they were supposed to pay for them.

Alderman Garrity stated that was the understanding at the Traffic Committee when Robin Comstock came and asked to do that. The assumption was yes but you have to pay for it. How much was the cost?

Mr. Lolicata answered I forget now but I can find out. The fact is that I recommend grandfathering for these signs because they were already up.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there a motion on the table. I would like to move to refer this to the Traffic Department to work with the Lions Club and come up with a plan and bring it back to the Committee. They are requesting that they go on places that I am not sure they can go. Once they bring a recommendation back with a cost we can make a decision. If we are not going to go after the Chamber we shouldn't force the Lions to pay. If we are going to require the Chamber to pay then the Lions will have to pay.

Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion to table and asked that a bill be sent to the Chamber of Commerce.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I just want to clarify. It is my understanding that they are referring this to the Traffic Director to come up with a plan and cost and

come back to the Committee at the next meeting. You are not approving the signs going up until he comes back.

Alderman O'Neil stated we are generally approving the request but it will need one more action by us.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked and you are also requesting that the Traffic Director send a bill to the Chamber for their signage.

Chairman Sysyn answered yes.

Chairman Sysyn called for a vote on the motion as stated above. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Osborne stated I want to take a minute of Tom's time. How are we doing with permit parking around Gill Stadium?

Mr. Lolicata stated well this has been our first meeting in two and a half months. I can get that ready and will have it for the next meeting. It is going to take a little time but we can do it.

Alderman Guinta stated I have two quick items. First, Tom can you look into and get back to me on two hour parking between Auburn and the alley on Union Street on the west side? The second issue is have you had a chance to talk to the owners of Just Jitters on Elm Street regarding their request of either a loading zone or some sort of 15 minute parking or a couple of spots with meters in front of that building?

Chairman Sysyn stated there is a bus stop there.

Mr. Lolicata responded right. I had a complaint about 15 minute parking or room for another meter. Are those the people you are talking about?

Alderman Guinta answered yes.

Mr. Lolicata stated I was up there over a week ago. There is a whole bus stop there on one side and on the other side there is...if it is where the old Moreau's used to be on the east side of Elm Street it is a bus stop.

Alderman Guinta responded what they are asking is can we somehow accommodate, whether it is by shortening the bus stop or adjacent to the bus stop somehow putting in one or two parking spots whether it is 15 minutes or

meters...put it this way can we go down and take a look at it and see if there is something we can do.

Mr. Lolicata replied sure. You are probably going to have to shorten the bus stop definitely.

Alderman Guinta asked is there a requirement as to how long the bus stop has to be.

Mr. Lolicata answered I think it has to be at least 40'.

Alderman Guinta asked can you work with MTA and try to come up with something reasonable that doesn't step on their toes and see if we can add a couple of spots downtown.

Mr. Lolicata answered sure. Do you want 15-minute parking?

Alderman Guinta stated whatever you think is most appropriate whether it is 15 minute or...it is really for in and out of those businesses. I suspect if we do it on one side we can probably try to do it on the other side because there are a lot of people going to the bank and those other small stores.

Mr. Lolicata stated we just reversed the other side and made a complete bus stop because there are three busses that come in at the same time. We had one spot there at one time and it didn't work.

Alderman Guinta responded well if we could just try to work something out on the one side that would be great.

Alderman O'Neil moved to have the ward Alderman contacted on any issue that comes up before a department and before departments are making commitments to anyone the ward Alderman should be contacted and brought up to date on what is going on. Alderman Guinta duly seconded the motion. Chairman Sysyn called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Roy asked, Tom, could you forward me anything you have study wise regarding Webster Street, DW Highway and the Campbell Street intersection. I have gotten a number of calls and complaints regarding the lunch hour and after work stacking and the lights not being synchronized, especially on Daniel Webster Highway towards Campbell Street and down to VIP Auto that it takes quite awhile to get through there. It seems like I am getting a number of traffic concerns in that area. Can you forward anything you may have on that so we can both keep an eye on it?

Mr. Lolicata answered if you want to come to the Traffic Department we can give you the timings. What you are talking about is a lot of vehicles and that is what happens. If you want anything regarding the timing of the lights or whatever we will give it to you.

Chairman Sysyn stated if an Alderman has a request of Tom and the Traffic Department I suggest that they call him directly. I don't think it should come before this Committee. I think you should go to Tom directly.

Alderman Guinta stated I have a follow-up to Alderman Roy's question. Is any of that stretch of roads identified in the 10-year state transportation plan for upgrades?

Mr. Lolicata asked Daniel Webster Highway.

Alderman Guinta answered yes I thought that was.

Mr. Lolicata stated I can check and find out and see if we can get some information but I don't think so.

Alderman Guinta stated Alderman Roy was talking about Webster Street, Daniel Webster Highway and Campbell Street. I thought that in the 10-year highway plan that part of DW Highway is slated for some improvements or modernizations.

Mr. Kevin Sheppard answered in the past we have actually looked at making DW Highway or Hooksett Road and that area four lanes. Part of the concern we have run into is widening over towards the park. There have been federal funds so we have had problems with the widening. We have also looked at redoing a section at Campbell and I don't know if it is Campbell or Arah that comes out just beyond Campbell Street. We actually got a plan together and put it in the CIP budget for the past four or five years but funding needs to be available to do something like that. It is a very difficult situation and even restructuring the intersection would be difficult for the traffic.

Alderman Guinta stated and the difficulty now is both the federal funds and the state funds seem to be reduced. It seems to be heading into the direction of paring down that money and we are having the issue right now of Granite Street. I think it is certainly an issue that we need to address because that really is an entry point to Manchester. Maybe we can try to work with Carol Murray and see where that is in the long-term 10-year plan in terms of its priority level.

Mr. Sheppard responded I am not too sure...I would have to verify whether it is in the state's 10-year plan. I know that we have submitted it as part of our CIP request. I don't believe...

Alderman Guinta interjected I know that it was discussed at some meetings this year but maybe it didn't make it.

Mr. Sheppard stated I can work with Tom and verify that.

Mr. Lolicata stated I have an addition to the traffic agenda. It is a stop sign on Biron Street at Pinard Street, nwc, sec.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to approve the stop sign.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee